(Luke 10: 25-37)

Intro: Text assigned by Red Cross.
A.M. Textual consideration of the Parable of the Good Samaritan
P.M. Exemplification & application of the text. (another)

Read text. Lk. 10: 25-37

The lawyer - an intellectual interest in religious questions. Felt secure in his own accepted beliefs. Would take delight in "showing up" another who believed otherwise.

His question - one on which many others hinged & which gave opened the door for a lively discussion:
"What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus counter-question
"What is written in the law? How readest thou?"

The Lawyer's answer – "Thou shalt love the Lord: and thy neighbor as thyself".

To the lawyer this was a safe answer – in the form of a platitude – a commonly accepted truth to be taken for granted. He had in mind those more specific religious requirement – fasting – prayer, sacrifices and had counted to justify himself to Jesus by them.

Jesus answer, thrusting home the naked law as the sole and sufficient reply to the question, "This staggered the lawyer.

"Thou hast answered right: this do and thou shalt live."

The lawyer, not satisfied, asks a further question "And who is my neighbor?"

In order to make his argument count, Jesus realized that he must break thru some strong prejudices in the lawyers mind.

The lawyer did not love gentiles—
only Jews.
And he had no use for Publicans
& tax gatherers & the common Jews.
He cared only for the better class
of Jews — those of his own kind.
The idea of a common humanity
and a common brotherhood had
never entered the lawyers head at all!

Consequently Jesus realized that the answer of the lawyer to his 1st question meant nothing to him — like a great many simple platitudes mean nothing to us today — they are the truth but we do not appreciate them.

The very question of the lawyer — "and who is my neighbor" showed how shallow he really was in his thinking. Had he in his heart such a love for God & Man as his answer to Jesus' question implied— he never would have thot to ask this question — for love never sees a limit, but reaches out to ever widening services.

And so by means of a parable Jesus makes the lawyer to see what a neighbor is by showing him what love is! True love, a merciful spirit, finds a neighbor in every one that is in need & can be helped. No theology or philosophy, no intellectual interpretation of life can find a neighbor so quickly & directly so opportunely as love.

The Parable

The priest & Levite passing by on the other side.

What excuses had they?

Going home from their work tired out? Did not Jesus do the same? — he left the multitudes & sick to go elsewhere?

Afraid of robbers?

Inconvenience of getting mixed up with the case — witnesses etc.?

Have we not all passed by opportunities to give aid to others? Making flimsy excuses? But are we excusable if any more than were the priest & Levite?

The Good Samaritan
not of our faith or race
despised by us.

And yet he showed mercy.

Which of these three thinkest thou proved neighbor unto him that fell among the robbers?

The lawyer said, "He that showed mercy on him." And Jesus replied — "Go and do thou likewise."

Summary of principles & lessons.

1. Eternal Life is Eternal Love.
   Living is loving.
   If you love God & man you have eternal life. Live a dozen times & go to a dozen heavens, if you do not love you have not eternal life.

2. Loving makes Neighborhood, Brotherhood.
   Overcomes prejudices of race, color, nationality & class distinction & recognizes a common humanity.

* * *

OUR NEIGHBORS.

Somebody near you is struggling alone
  Over life's desert sand;
Faith, hope and courage together are gone:
  Reach him a helping hand.
Turn on his darkness a beam of your light;
Kindle, to guide him, a beacon-fire bright;
Cheer his discouragement, soothe his affright,
  Lovingly help him to stand.

Somebody near you is hungry and cold—
  Send him some aid to-day.
Somebody near you is feeble and old,
  Left without human stay—
Under his burden put hands kind and strong;
Speak to him tenderly, sing him a song;
Haste to do something to help him along
  Over his weary way.

Who are our neighbors? Look up and behold,
  Pressing on every hand,
Little ones, lonely ones, sad ones and old;
  Everywhere see them stand.
He is our neighbor, whom we can befriend;
He to whom comfort or aid we can lend;
Or he whose footsteps we may cause to wend
  Toward the heavenly land.

Dear ones, be busy, for time flieth fast;
  Soon it will all be gone.
Soon will our season of service be past;
  Soon will our day be done.
Somebody near you needs now a kind word;
Someone needs help such as you can afford;
Haste to assist in the name of the Lord,
  There may be a soul to be won.

—Mrs. E. E. Williams, in Lutheran Observer.

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TAKE YOURSELF IN HAND

919

rchestra
or
evitt, Sr.
nes"
Choruses
r School
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atts,
Robinson

6. Women's Chorus—"Hymn to Night" (Beethoven)
7. Reading—Selected ---------------- Mary Phillips
8. Quartet—"Where Are You Going, My Pretty Maid?" ----------- Helen January, Katherine Steiger; Leland Fisher, Paul Chandler
9. Reading—Selected --------------- Lorena Watts
10. Chorus—
    (a) "To America" -------------------
    (b) "A Monkey's Tail" -------------
    ------------------------------ High School
11. Vocal Solo—Selected ------------- Harold Naylor
12. Chorus—
    (a) "Merry Life" (Denza) -------------
    (b) "Kerry Dance" (Malloy) ----------
    ------------------- Vacaville Choral Society
13. Selection ------------------------- Orchestra

3. He who loves renders deeds of mercy to those in need of them.

A lover of God & man,
heals the sick
binds up the wounds
comforts the broken hearted
lifts up the fallen
leads the blind
care for the helpless ones.

The American Red Cross is an organization founded on love for humanity for the purpose of helping, in practical ways all who are in distress, especially the sick, the injured & suffering ones.

Read poem